GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:200
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2005
SPECIAL PACKAGE FOR TEA INDUSTRY
Singh Shri Sugrib

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to announce a special package for sick tea industry in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether the Government also proposes to declare Darjeeling tea zone as Agri-export zone;

(d) if so, the details of the incentives given under AEZ scheme to farmers of the Darjeeling; and

(e) the time by which the infrastructure for such zone will be developed?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN)

(a) & (b): Tea Board has proposed a programme for replantation and rejuvenation of the old tea bushes in various tea gardens across the country. The detailed costing and modalities of funding such a large programme are under examination.

(c): The proposal for setting up of an Agri Export Zone(AEZ) for Darjeeling tea was approved in principle by the Steering Committee on Agri Export Zone subject to the State Government`s written commitment to support the AEZ. It was also decided that the Tea Board would act as the nodal agency for this AEZ. Government of West Bengal has since given a commitment to support the establishment of AEZ for Darjeeling tea.

(d): The benefits to tea producers would accrue within the framework of existing schemes of the State and Central Governments.

(e): The proposal is in its inception stage and no time frame has been fixed regarding the development of infrastructure for the AEZ.